

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP, FORD

SUBJECT: NATIONWIDE YUGOSLAV TELEVISION INTERVIEW OF
PRESIDENT FORD

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED REQUEST FROM TOP BELGRADE
TELEVISION EDITOR AND COMMENTATOR BORIVOJE MIRKOVIC,
TO REQUEST HALF-HOUR TELEVISION INTERVIEW WITH
PRESIDENT FORD, TO BE PLAYED NATIONWIDE, PRIME TIME,
ONE OR TWO DAYS PRIOR PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA.
MIRKOVIC WOULD LIKE TO DO INTERVIEW IN HELSINKI
IMMEDIATELY AFTER CONCLUSION OF CSCE. THE TEXT OF
THE INTERVIEW WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH TANJUG TO
MEDIA WITHIN YUGOSLAVIA AND ELSEWHERE.

2. BORIVOJE MIRKOVIC IS THE EDITOR OF THE YUGOSLAV
SERIES "WHITE BOOK," WHICH IS A POLITICAL
DISCUSSION PROGRAM, IN WHICH MIRKOVIC HAS CONDUCTED
INTERVIEWS WITH PRESIDENT TITO (LAST MAY 9), WILLYS
BRANDT, INDIRA GANDHI, ANWAR EL SADAT, HABIB BOURGUIBA,
EDVARD GJEREK, KURT WALDHEIM, EDWARD KENNEDY, MANEA
MANESCU, JASIR ARAFAT AND GOUGH WHITLAM.

3. MIRKOVIC WOULD LIKE TO DEVELOP A DISCUSSION WITH
THE PRESIDENT BASED ON THE FOLLOWING IDEAS:

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1. CSCE IS THE RESULT OF LENGTHY EFFORTS ON THE PART OF MANY PEOPLES AND COUNTRIES, AND IT IS HOPED THAT THIS LONG PROCESS OF STABILIZATION IN EUROPE WILL HAVE POSITIVE REPERCUSSIONS ON ALL INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. WHAT SORT OF PERSPECTIVES DOES THE PRESIDENT SEE FOR BREATHING LIFE INTO THE PRINCIPLES WHICH HAVE BEEN WRITTEN DOWN IN THE DOCUMENTS OF THE CONFERENCE?

2. THE PROCESS OF DETENTE BETWEEN THE GREAT POWERS HAS IN MANY RESPECTS CONTRIBUTED TO AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AS A WHOLE. NEVERTHELESS, MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT DETENTE FALLS EXCLUSIVELY WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THE SUPER POWERS, AND THAT THE SOLUTION OF THE MOST IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS AND THE CONTROL OF MANY INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS AND DIFFICULTIES ARE EXCLUSIVELY WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THE GREAT POWERS. IT IS QUITE NATURAL THAT SUCH INTERPRETATIONS OF DETENTE SUPPORT THE SUSPICIONS OF SMALL COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHICH ARE NOT LINKED WITH ANY BLOCS AND WHICH CONDUCT A POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT. WHAT IS THE PRESIDENT'S THINKING ABOUT THIS SET OF PROBLEMS?

3. THE PRESIDENT HAS SPOKEN IN HIS PUBLIC APPEARANCES THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO CHANGE THE IMAGE OF AMERICA IN THE WORLD, AN IMAGE WHICH WAS FORMED AS THE RESULT OF A SERIES OF DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS OVER THE COURSE OF THE LAST FEW YEARS. WHAT DOES THE PRESIDENT FEEL MUST BE DONE IN THIS AREA DURING HIS TENURE AS PRESIDENT?

4. AMONG SOME OF THE OBSTACLES STANDING IN THE WAY OF STABLE AND JUST INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ARE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS. DEVELOPING NATIONS AND NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES FEEL THAT THESE RELATIONS MUST BE BASED ON NEW AND MORE JUST BASES. THESE COUNTRIES' ACTIONS ARE OFTEN CHARACTERIZED AS UNCLASSIFIED

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THE CREATION OF A "VOTING MACHINE." WHAT CAN BE DONE TO GUARANTEE THE INTERESTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND DEVELOPED INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES, TO STOP THE GROWING GAP IN DEVELOPMENT AND TO GUARANTEE A LONG-TERM, STABLE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER?

5. ONE OF THE MOST SENSITIVE POINTS ON THE INTER-NATIONAL POLITICAL

MAP IS, OF COURSE, THE NEAR EAST AND MEDITERRANEAN. HOW DOES THE PRESIDENT EVALUATE THE PROSPECTS FOR A LONG-TERM SOLUTION OF THIS VERY DANGEROUS FOCAL POINT OF NEW INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS AND INTERNATIONAL COMPLICATIONS?

6. YOU RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT YOU WILL RUN FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT IN 1976. HAVING BECOME PRESIDENT UNDER UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS NATURAL THAT YOU WILL PREPARE A PLATFORM ON BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS WHICH WOULD SET THE LONG-TERM TONE FOR YOUR PRESIDENCY. CAN YOU TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR INTENTIONS IN THIS RESPECT?

7. THE UNITED STATES AND YUGOSLAVIA THROUGHOUT THE POST-WAR PERIOD HAVE ENJOYED A FRUITFUL RELATIONSHIP. HOW DOES THE PRESIDENT REGARD THE PROSPECTS FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES?

8. WHAT QUESTIONS IS THE PRESIDENT MOST INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING WITH PRESIDENT TITO AND OTHER YUGOSLAV FIGURES?

4. MIRKOVIC STRESSES THAT THESE QUESTIONS COMPRISE ONLY A "FRAMEWORK," WITHIN WHICH TO CONDUCT THE INTERVIEW. MIRKOVIC SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH.

5. COMMENT: WHETHER PRESIDENT ACCEPTS SEEMS TO DEPEND TOTALLY ON THE AMOUNT OF TIME HE HAS AVAILABLE IN HELSINKI. I SEE NO NEGATIVE AND ONLY POSITIVE ASPECTS TO SUCH AN INTERVIEW.
SILBERMAN

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